New Stories of

THE MYSTERIOUS WAYS OF

WANG FOO

By SIDNEY C. PARTRIDGE

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The Incense Burner

"Givery are not not find the print of the control of the cont

atured form—being comething which continues mind cannot tolerate, the marks of the cashier, especially his lever reference to the ancestors, at sir?"

"I refer to prize-fighting, Mr. Wal-

the cover of the iron chest.

These two were the ingress wagers of the covering on the apprited contest to evening on the apprited contest to me and the manipart in a carefully survived cellar some ten feet or more creath the surface of one of Hong ongs crowded alleys. Of course there are smaller bets, even as low as the creates and the tens and the fives, but to copper or brack was admitted in the copper or brack was admi

alesty shall give the word," addressinpous and brural-faced indi- date?"

The "King of the Contest", as he must known to all the patrons of the standard through the place recently—and that up to the presentablishment, bowed in acknowledgent and repiled, "In accordance with its ancient customs and in obedience the traditions of our ancestors, we the traditions of our ancestors, we all first pay our tribute to Tik Yok." "We do not publish all the transac-"We do not publish all the transactions of the Department in the public papers, you know, until we think it wise and the candles and the incense be and expedient to do so. Publicity of

between the merits of "potted Back" secret spot right here in the Colony."
and Yellow Lega. (Loud cheers from "Quite impossible! Utterly absurd, the backers of these two champions st!" exclaimed the Inspector as he greeted the royal remarks.) Are the brought his closed fist down with an

"I refer to prize-fighting, Mr. Wallarg ancestors, I will 'sweeten the mixmen it' And, suiting the action to the
more of the deep forth from his sleeve
his requisite amount, which disappeared
in regular order through the opening
in the cover of the iron chest.

"I refer to prize-fighting, Mr. Wallace, and prize-fighting, of the most demarked by the most definite and prize-fighting of the most demarked by the most definite and prize-fighting, Mr. Wallace, and prize-fighting of the most demarked by the most de-

or having been tabooed and the min-scribus tone, "I demand that you pro-duce your proofs and make it good, or We are all ready for the next and else apologize for it and withdraw it." ound of the night," said the of the bets, as no more money forthcoming. "Whenever His the exact place or even the exact date." "You do not know the place nor the

occupied the most prom-the circle. "Unfortunately not, sir; all we know is that the fight took place—and that a of sent in the circle. Is that the fight took place—and that a

lighted and the wine and rice cakes be lighted and the wine and rice cakes be presented?"

"It is already done as His Majesty has commanded," replied Sung Ling, who acted in the capacity of door-keeper and accive.

"Well, sir, when my attention was first called to them, I thought they work his took place?"

Then let the honorable trial of probably took place in some native enaircugth begin!" announced the King closure just outside the international in his most majustic tones, "and may boundary, but I now am quite certain the august Decree of Heaven decide that they are being carried on in some

red lacquer clamps firm beneath the supplate blow upon the office table.

"They are!" They are!" shrieked the all the Island of Hong Kong that could They are! They are!" shrieked the room in one grent chorus.

"Then all is ready, GO!" and with the prize-fight. I know they have their word, "Spotted Eack" and "Yellow Loss", stripped of every rag of clothing and held only around the waist by the clamps of the polished red lacquer, flew at each other and, grappling in an eawful struggle for life or death, seemed to be trying to tear each other limb from limb, as they revolved around in the narrow arena—not of boards or of sand, but, as always in these contests. I want to get at—produce it, if you

him to escape.

"It is a little unusual, but native ideas of justice and propriety demand that the criminal shall be transported in a wooden cage. We will produce him at Headquarters at noon today, and I shall be glad to have you invite His Excellency and Rev. Mr. Smalltree to be present when he is carried in. The cage (which we have brought from Canton) will be carefully covered while ion) will be carefully covered while passing through the streets, so as not to excite the public-especially not to excite the public especially the Europeans, who might not un-derstand it.

"Very cordially yours, "Wang Fee. "P. S .- You might include Lord Dubbins in the party if he is still in town."

It was just five minutes to twelve when Hong Kong's famous Detective alighted from his sedan-chair and passed into the private office of the In-spector. The invited guests were all passed into the private office of the In-spector. The invited guests were all there. It was easy to see that they were awaiting with the deepest inter-est—not to say anxiety—this exposure of the prize-fight in their midst, and were wondering at the audacity—even of Wang Foo with all his prestige—of transporting a criminal in an old-fashioned punishment-cage through the streets of the civilized British Colony. He was formally introduced and area to address the streets. and arose to address them.
"The prisoner, the prisoner!" they
all cried in unison.

"Yellow Legs and the cage! Where are they? Haven't you brought him?" eagerly inquired the Inspector, beginning to fear a disappointment,

"Gentlemen," said the Man of Mys-tery, as with a sweeping gesture he produced a little paper package from his silken sieeve, "behold the criminal and the prison!" He, unwrapped be-fore their astonished eyes a tinr willow cage and in it a pellow-legged chirping cricket!

"What means this pleasantry and why do you trifle with us this way?" asked the Governor as he arose and addressed Wang Foo.

"Your Excellency," replied the Deows "this is no pleasantry, it is the simple unvarnished truth. Listen to me, I beg you, for a moment. This whole thing is an illustration of the mistake of applying a European conception to an Asiatic transaction, contest of strength—a prize-fight you wish so to call it-takes plans it your midst and you spring at once to the conclusion that the combatants are of course human beings. This does not follow at all in China. I have listened and there is not a syllable from end to end that does not apply as well to an insect as to a man-road it over your-selves and acknowledge that I am cor-Every nation has its own form of

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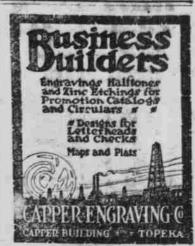


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"Where did the prize-fight take place?"

in his grasp of steel.

asked Wang, as he siezed his wrists